

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6 had been rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner has objected to several terms and passages recited in the present claims. In response thereto, the claims have been amended to remove the terminology objected to by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 had been rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Little et al. Claims 1 and 3 had been rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Jovanovich. Claims 1 and 3 had been rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanaway et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed, particularly as applied to the claims as presently amended.

Claims 4-6 had been indicated allowable over the prior art. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response thereto,

claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 4 and the intervening limitations of claim 3. Claim 3 has been placed in independent form, incorporating the limitations of claim 1 and also claim 5, which had been indicated allowable. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to recite only the "O-ring" limitations, which were not incorporated into claims 1 and 3, respectively. And allowable claim 6 has been placed in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 3.

New claims have been added to further point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as being the present invention. No new matter has been added. New claims 12-22 depend, either directly or indirectly from allowable claims 1, 3, or 6, and define further novel features of the invention. New claims 23-25 are directed to a liquid transfer apparatus including a plurality of capillaries and a plurality of associated independently-operable pressure mechanisms, so as to independently pressurize the associated capillaries. It is believed that the features of the invention specifically claimed in claims 23-25 are not shown or suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, favorable consideration of these claims is requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please
charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. NGB-12947.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By



Jay P. Ryan
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 37,064

4080 Erie Street
Willoughby, Ohio 44094
(216) 566-9700